(c) The quantum of import of Alloy/Stainless Steel Cold Rolled Sheets/ Coils during the last three years is as follows:—

Quantity in '000 tonnes

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
33.9	29.8	37.3

Strategy to revive the tea industry

483. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a strategy to revive the tea industry in the country; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of steps to help the tea industry in the country, which include the following:

- The basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 70% to 100% as announced in the Budget of 2002-2003.
- Excise duty on tea has been reduced from Rs. 2 per Kg. to Rs. 1 per Kg. in the Budget 2002-2003.
- The allowance under the Section 33 AB of Income Tax Act has been increased from 20% to 40% in the Budget 2001-02 to encourage profit making units to go in for rejuvenation and replantation of their gardens and also modernization of machinery.
- The Board is implementing a medium term export strategy on tea prepared in consultation with M/s. Accenture. The strategy is being implemented in close coordination with the tea industry.
- As part of the Medium Term Export Strategy, a communication campaign to promote Indian tea and the logo developed by Tea Board was launched in Russia in October, 2002.

- A factory up gradation Scheme has been implemented by the Tea Board to encourage production of good quality orthodox and non-reconditioned CTC (Cut-Tear-Curl) teas in the country.
- Govt. has also provided financial incentives to the exporters of tea for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transport/ freight charges. This scheme is being continued in the Tenth Plan.
- A Quality Upgradation Programme is being implemented by the Tea Board for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers in the country.
- The sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) has been banned.
- A Generic promotion campaign has been launched for improving the consumption of tea within the country.
- A study of the primary marketing system for tea has also been conducted through M/s. Ferguson and based on its recommendations, the Government / Tea Board has notified Tea Marketing (Control) Order 2003 and changes in the auction rules to provide for a more transparent price discovery mechanism for tea.
- A relief package has been announced by Reserve Bank of India which provides for restructuring/rescheduleiment of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc. RBI has also recently announced a separate relief package for small tea growers and Bought Leaf Factories. It is expected that the tea industry will derive significant benefit from this package with regard to their credit problems.
- The Government has also approved the establishment of a Price Stablisation Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 500 crores for providing relief to the growers of plantation commodities such as tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco.
- The Board is also implementing five Plan Schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan period amied at improving the productivity, quality and marketability of Indian tea.

In addition, the Government has also appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. The reports of these Committees are expected to be submitted by March 2003.

United Nations Trade and Development Report

484. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Trade and Development Report has pointed out that only India and China to weather the reversal in the global economy in the Asian region;

(b) if so, the other main points mentioned in the report;

(c) whether according to the report, the growth in the world economy slowed sharply in 2001;

(d) if so, whether Government have examined this report; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Trade and Development Report 2002 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has stated that growth in world economy slowed sharply in 2001; performance was weak in all three leading economic regions in the developed world; several emerging market economies in East Asia and Latin America entered into recession; only China and India, two large and relatively closed economies were by and large immune from the downward pressure of world markets. The slow down of global growth during 2001 was accompanied by an even more marked deceleration of growth in international trade; in Asia, the fall in demand by United States led to stagnation in export growth, a rapid deterioration in current account positions and a declining growth rate in 2001 in all countries except India and China.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. This report is examined by the concerned departments in the Government. In fact, during April-December 2002 the export growth of Indian merchandise goods has picked up substantially at 20.36% as compared